000 "Anti-religious propaganda is not forbidden in Soviet Lithuania, nor is religious propaganda forbidden. Like all Catholic priests, I preach the word of God freely and without hindrance from the pulpit. If anti-religious lectures are given in our city, any citizen does or does not attend as he sees fit—just as every citizen does or does not attend the services at any church according to the dictates of his judgment."

This assertion, of course, violates the wording of Art. 124 of the Soviet Constitution. Constitution, published by the OGIZ State Publishing House of Political Literature at Moscow in 1938, in English, gives the following (inaccurate) translation: "Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens."

875 A direct contradiction is provided by an article of comrade V. Niunka, Minister of Education of the Lithuanian SSR, in the Communist Party organ *Tiesa* of 31 October 1948:

"Most of the teachers of the Ignalina gymnasium . . . did not rid themselves of religious prejudices, they frequently go to church thereby setting a bad example for the pupils. . . . Former director N. Petravičius is a clerical, he practices his religion, he even keeps pictures of the saints in his home . . . and categorically refuses to admit his errors. . . .

"Therefore, the College of the Ministry of Education decrees:

"1) to dismiss the following teachers from teaching duties:

"(a) Nikanoras Petravičius as a clerical and unfit to work in Soviet schools . . ." — and other teachers practicing their religious duties.

000 There was indeed a Casimir Kulak, a Catholic priest of Whiteruthenian extraction. He had been a professor of the Eastern rite liturgy and Orthodox Theology at the Roman Catholic Seminary in Pinsk. He was an erudite man, tolerant in his dealings with the Lithuanians, and a Whiteruthenian patriot—not to be confused with the Lithuanians.

It is feared that the alleged "interview" in the Soviet Embassy Bulletin may be the last we shall hear of this priest—unless from a MVD dungeon. The Soviet Embassy had once before published an "interview" with a Catholic dignitary, the Most Rev. Mečys Reinys, Archbishop of Vilnius,—and he "vanished" within a month thereafter. . . .

Resistance

● 668 186 Comrade Antanas Sniečkus, the window-dressing "Stalin" of Lithuania—First Secretary of the Communist Party/bolshevik of Lithuania—had this to say in the LKP/b organ *Tiesa* ("Pravda"), No. 300 of 24 December 1947:

"It must not be forgotten that the bourgeois nationalists within the republic's territory are conducting anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation, spreading provocative rumors and, seeking to undermine the work, they attempt to infiltrate in the state apparatus.

"When German fascism lies smashed and is no longer able to aid the Lithuanian bourgeois nationalists, they expect such aid from the Anglo-American imperialists.

". . . They praise the false Anglo-Saxon democracy and idealize the bourgeois system of America and England.

000

Freedom Fighter recruits undergoing training in machine gun firing—Dainava Area in Lithuania.

668
186

"Among the bourgeois nationalists combatting the people, an important part is played by the reactionary section of the Catholic clergy who try to utilize the religious convictions of people in the interest of the exploiting classes.

"... The interest of the Lithuanian people demands that the bourgeois nationalists be smashed as soon as possible. We have every means to accomplish this.

"The speedy destruction of the bourgeois-nationalist underground depends to a great extent on a successful expansion of combat against the relics of influence of the bourgeois nationalist ideology among certain sections of the population, and on a re-education of our republic's working people in the spirit of Soviet ideology."

665
668
186

A year later, on 14 December 1948, all the major press agencies commented the article of comrade A. S. Trofimov, new secretary of the "Lithuanian" Communist Party Central Committee, in a December 2 issue of "Soviet Lithuania." The Russian comrade called to mobilize the Party's forces for the "liquidation of the remnants of the bourgeois-nationalist underground" which "spreads provocative rumors, and steals into the Government system and into factories," "intimidating and murdering Soviet folk" in an effort "to hinder the great work of restoring and expanding the people's economy."

At long last, comrade Trofimov received a Russian translation of his fellow-secretary's article written a year earlier....

There had been such articles in the Soviet press ever since the imposition of a Russian regime upon Lithuania—and there will be many more such articles as long as the MVD-MGB will maintain the Communist Party in power over any freedom-loving country.

News of a worldwide distribution of "Trofimov's article"—plagiarized from comrade Sniečkus—reached Moscow. Comrade Trofimov's fate is not known,—but the first week of January 1949, Soviet broadcasts beamed to Western Europe hastened to proclaim that the Lithuanian "insurrectionist underground" had been "liquidated" and that everything was now in order.

Nevertheless, on 16-19 February 1949, comrade Sniečkus for four hours raved at the LKP/b Congress

Field Dinner in honor of the graduating class of Guerrilla Officers School, Tauras Area in Lithuania.

668
186
665

—repeating his call to smash the underground, the reactionary clergy, etc. One need not be a prophet to predict that boasts of "liquidation" and threats, repeatedly made since 1945, will be reiterated for an indefinite time in the future.

Liberation Movement

668
725

Armed and passive resistance will continue until the liberation of the country—or extinction of the Lithuanian People.

The Supreme Lithuanian Committee of Liberation (*VLIK*) is regarded as the country's supreme *political* representative, and its delegation abroad is acknowledged as the Government-in-Exile. It is a coalition of all democratic non-Communist parties and combat organizations.

The actual *resistance* is coordinated inside the country by a non-partisan *BDPS*—the United Democratic Resistance Movement. Its armed forces, called FREEDOM FIGHTERS, are directed by the *VGPS*—the Supreme Command of the Armed Guerrilla Forces.

The objectives are: to counteract the bolshevik spy network; to defend and protect the inhabitants from robberies and murders; to prevent the colonization of the country by foreigners; to curb collectivization and moral lapses; to prevent the wasteful destruction of the forests and other national resources; to keep the population informed of international developments through a press network; to shelter persons passing into outlaw status; to preserve the nation's manpower and traditions of a cultural, political and national entity. In general—the aspiration is to regain state sovereignty under a democratic system, with Lithuania a member of the European Continental Commonwealth and in friendship wtih neighboring countries, including Russia. The main objective is—SURVIVAL OF THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE. Other objectives flow therefrom.

Resistance tactics constantly change in accordance with the methods and degree of oppression by the Soviet occupant. The country is divided into Areas, and resistance members themselves know but one or two other members. The BDPS Praesidium is formed on the principle of efficiency and personal qualifications, rather than representation of various political ideologies. Force today is applied on rare occasions, whenever its use as a terrorist shock action is justified, for instance, attack on the armed convoys and trains transporting deportees.

8a

000

Trainees of the Guerrilla Officers School returning to their camp after field training—Tauras Area in Lithuania.

●668
725

Large-scale battles are no longer fought—they proved too costly. The Russians claimed to have "liquidated 12,000 bandits" since 1944 and estimate the present forces of the "bandits" at 40,000. The Lithuanian underground concedes considerably greater battle casualties—in excess of 20,000—and estimates the Russian battle casualties at 180,000. This seeming disproportion in battle losses is explained by the fact that the Lithuanians are on the defensive, they strike from ambush in coldly calculated shock actions, strike a swift blow and retire,—while the Russians storm blindly in massed ranks. There is a case of a former guerrilla unit commander who, after the murder of his entire family and the destruction of his farm by the punitive detachments, enlisted with the guerrillas and accounted for 283 assorted Russians prior to his escape westward.

Unfortunately, armed action is followed by reprisals by Soviet punitive detachments which rage for weeks around the scene of a clash—while the guerrilla unit is far from the place by that time. The havoc caused by Soviet punitive hordes is so great that, despite the insufferable treatment at the hands of the occupant, the Liberation Movement strives to reduce employment of arms to an unavoidable minimum.

Uniformed armed units are maintained in the field but are used as a policing force. The guerrillas—men and women "outlaws" who cannot go back to their homes—are under orders to destroy themselves in an extremity and to take pains to mutilate their faces in death, lest their families and acquaintances should suffer. Consequently, the last hand grenade is reserved for suicidal use: the grenade is placed in the mouth and exploded. Faces of battle casualties are mutilated by comrades of the fallen Freedom Fighters when clandestine burial is made impossible. Some 8,000 men and women met death in suicidal fashion.

In 1947, a group of 8 Freedom Fighters making their way on a mission to Poland, were traced to a dugout by MVD dogs. According to Russian prisoners taken later by the guerrillas, the MVD troops showered grenades and mortar fire around the dugout. When a hole was finally pierced, solemn singing came from inside, followed by a series of explosions: all 8 men had blown themselves to eternity.

668 In the village of M . . . ., several hundred Russians encircled 6 guerrillas. The cornered patriots defended themselves an entire day. Only 3 men survived when their ammunition was exhausted. They managed to crawl toward Russian corpses, and they fought with "borrowed" weapons until all three men were blown out of existence. 60 Russians, including the MVD chief of Prienai, died.

Desecration and Reprisals

661 The behavior of Russian "repression forces" may be illustrated by several examples.

In 1948, a MVD unit called on a farmer in Marijampolė township to make a search. When the door was not opened quickly enough, the Russians fired several series of automatic fire through the door, killing the father. They broke down the door, beat up and raped the widow and her 17-year old daughter, seized everything of value and left. In a neighboring farm, the Russians raped a pregnant woman in her husband's presence, beat up everyone and left. The woman gave birth to a stillborn within a few days.

On 7 February 1947 the MVD troops of Marijampolė saw two German women beggars near the Nendrininkai village. The soldiers opened fire. One woman escaped, the other was raped by 7 men—in the sight of the horrified villagers. The same Russians encountered an elderly German woman beggaring in the Ilgeliškiai village. Learning from her papers that she was German, they killed her with rifle butts and ordered the farmers to bury her.

In Sasnava township, farmer Kukliečius and his son were cutting wood at the forest edge around their farm. Passing Russians shot them on sight, without investigating. They shot farmer Rauba in the Pinkevilkiai village whom they observed chopping wood.

In the village of Naujakaimis, MVD troops killed three youths observed walking together on the street—Valinskas, 17, B. Vylniauskas, 18, and J. Vylniauskas, 16. The Russians bayoneted, kicked and struck the bodies with rifle butts and did not permit the bereaved parents to claim the bodies.

In Kamajai town, Rokiškis county, the Russians descended on a widow who was inadvertently feeding seven strangers who proved to be guerrillas—6 men and a nurse. When the guerrillas refused to surrender, the Russians opened fire. The battle of 7 guerrillas against some 60 Russians lasted several hours. The guerrillas and their hostess were killed. The widow's young daughter fainted from fright and was found among the corpses. The troops ordered the neighbors to load the corpses on a truck. These neighbors seeing the girl was living—told the Russians. The latter ordered them to toss the girl with the corpses. The bodies were brought to Rokiškis and dumped on the city market place. The girl revived. She crawled and started running. Several Russian guards overtook her, passed a noose of barbed wire over her neck, and dragged her back to the corpses—strangled. This scene was witnessed by an American citizen now back in the United States.

Thousands of similar incidents are recorded by the underground.

668 661 When the MVD became too active in Marijampolė county in 1947, a guerrilla was assigned to court an

661 MVD employee and he became engaged to her. The engagement party was attended by several dozen top officials, including Chairman of the County Executive 668 Committee, the Prosecutor, the Komsomol Chairman, MVD officials, etc. At an opportune moment, the lone guerrilla liquidated the entire group of Soviet satraps, with the exception of the guest musician. Similar incidents occurred elsewhere, and the Russians now avoid gathering in such groups, unless under strong escort.

Desecration of patriots' corpses continues. Bodies are dumped in market places. Crosses and Lithuanian insignia are cut on the bodies by bayonets and scythes, rosaries "rein" the mouths, eyes are gouged, sexual organs mutilated. Bodies lie in decomposed state for weeks, as the Russians kick and spit on the bodies, dance around them, etc.

Banditry by Russian troops and militia is restrained by the guerrilla units protecting the inhabitants. For over a year Russian bandit gangs of army deserters posed a serious problem but these were eventually destroyed by the guerrillas.

The resistance movement embraces the entire country, although degree of organization differs from place to place. The Russian campaign for a memorial thanking Stalin for the "liberation" failed miserably. Lately, however, to minimize the reprisals, the underground instructed people to report to polling places and to pay lip service to "father of nations," "the great teacher and leader, protector of the working people of the world, Stalin The Sun."

668 Liaison with the underground forces in the neighboring countries is rendered difficult by the extreme nationalism of the Poles and Whiteruthenians. Collaboration is limited to specific objectives, such as assistance for passage of envoys. The underground in Poland is not unified, and there had been cases of betrayal by rival factions. Excellent contact is maintained with the Latvians and Ukrainians. Overtures from "Russian underground sources" were deliberately ignored as too risky—the Russians are so thoroughly cowed by three decades of terror and informer network that no Russian is deemed reliable.

Administration

645 The "boss" of the country is a satrap of the Kremlin—comrade *Shcherbakov*, titled All-Union Communist Party's/bolshevik Plenipotentiary for Lithuania.

In addition to comrade Justas "President" Paleckis, Chairman of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Council of Ministers is made up of the following nominal heads:

Prime Minister—Mečys Gedvila (Lithuanian);

Deputy Premiers—First Deputy Pisaryov, Second Deputy Sokolov, Third Deputy Mamayev (all 3 Russians);

Council's Secretary—S. Pupeikis (Lithuanian);

Minister of Food Industry—K. Andrijaitis (Lithuanian);

Minister of Local Industry—S. Shkodin (Russian);

Minister of Fishing Industry—Andrei Zasypkin (Russian) was summarily dismissed "for inefficiency" 5 February 1949 and replaced by an unknown, "V. Mickevičius";

10a

186 668 The Russian occupation receives no popular support from the masses. Of racial Lithuanians, only a few hardened communists and several thousand released criminals turned collaborators.

There is a definite trend to exclude even Lithuanian communists. In all of the periodic purges, it is the Lithuanian communists who suffer disgrace, expulsion and exile, while Russian embezzlers retain their posts. An "Anti-Cominform" morale is pronounced among the Lithuanian members of the LKP/b. Party and non-Party Lithuanians are still found in the less important "high offices." However, not a single Lithuanian holds an administrative post in any office connected with the military effort. This trend is pronounced even in the distribution of "ministerial" titles.

655 All communications—railroads, waterways, ports, post offices, telegraph, radio, telephone, aviation and highways—are under a centralized "All-Union" control: there are no "ministries" for any communications. A few Lithuanians are still encountered among the MVD railroad guard personnel but their number constantly dwindles.

486 Travel inside Lithuania to a distance of 200 km. is not obstructed, with the exception of the "prohibited zones" along the Polish frontier and the seacoast, where special permits from the MVD are required. Otherwise, traveling permits are issued by employing offices. Of course, every traveler must submit to numerous checkings of the papers by armed patrols.

There is no frontier with East Prussia and Latvia, and the same general travel rules apply to journeys to Latvia and East Prussia. Nevertheless, it is deemed safer to procure a *"komandirovka"* (dispatch orders) even if the destination be less than 200 km.—a "detour" to Siberia must never be overlooked. The Latvian frontier is crossed mostly for black marketing. It is possible to go to Byelorussia and into the interior of Russia with a permit issued by a local MVD or Executive Committee. *"Komandirovka"* is required for travel by air.

[191] Transportation tickets, birth, death and other records are printed in Russian and "local" languages. Nevertheless, it is not a rare phenomenon to hear in response to an inquiry in Lithuanian: *"Neponimayu etovo sobachevo yazika"* (I do not understand this canine language).

Mobilization and Demobilization

727 Of the so-called "Lithuanian Units," only one survives—the 16th Infantry Division stationed in Vilnius. The enlisted and non-commissioned officers personnel is roughly 80% Lithuanian, but the officer cadres are predominantly Russian on all levels. Orders are given in Russian. Colonel Motieka is the Divisional Commander, and political "General" Macijauskas is Deputy Commanding Officer. All other mobilized Lithuanians are dispersed throughout Russian units.

701 During the war, men of the classes of (birth) 1895 through 1926 were drafted. After the cessation of hostilities in Germany, a few men were demobilized, others were assigned to various Labor Battalions and moved to Russia. Those serving in MVD units were retained in the service. Men born prior to 1923 were demobilized from strictly military units of the Soviet Army.

661 them, like the 60-year old farmer J. Kaminskas from Oldenburg, were "detoured" to Siberia. Several other 474 families were forcibly repatriated by the Russians from Pomerania—and were executed by the local authorities when they reached their homes. Having identified the former refugees, the Russians at once retaliated against their relatives. Thus, in Sudavia, Rev. Degutis of Virbalis, Rev. Zdanavičius, Rev. Drazdys, township clerk Bieliauskas of Pajevonys, Stasys Aleksa from Jakiškiai, Jonas Micuta from Kunigiškiai were executed. In distant Samagitia, Antanas Ambrozaitis, Antanas Bieliauskas and several other men were exiled to Siberia from Kretinga and their *wives were forced to re-marry*. Similar events have taken place elsewhere.

668 725 The guerrilla commanders felt obliged to retaliate. On learning that Eugenija Kubiliūtė of Pajevonys had been responsible for some of the Russian-conducted massacres, the guerrillas attacked Pajevonys, found the girl inside the Pajevonys township office, tied her and burned down the structure with the traitor girl inside. The same night the MVD-militia outpost was attacked and destroyed. In the northwest, the guerrillas simultaneously occupied several towns and killed all the communists. Other units invaded the Klaipėda District and seized a Russian arsenal at Šilutė-Heidekrug, including tanks and artillery pieces. Several battalions of the regular Soviet Army sent to combat the guerrillas unexpectedly passed over to the enemy. . . . If there was "insurrection," that was by the regular armed forces of Russia. MVD-MGB troops were moved in and light bombers were summoned to bomb the "bandits" who retreated to the forests. As Russian reinforcements rushed to Pajevonys, a Russian munitions dump exploded. . . .

Then followed the "operation" of May 1948.

Genocide in Operation

474 661 Rural authorities were instructed to urge the dispossessed farmers to file applications for land allotments. Of course, none of these instructions were printed in the press. Local officials were instructed to stress that the Soviet regime wanted to endow everyone with land. When petitions were turned in, the officials informed the petitioners that land was allotted to them "in another township" and they must report to certain transportation points. When the farmers and their families, bearing their few worldly possessions arrived at the appointed places, they were encircled by MVD troops, driven to railroad depots and placed on board freight cars bound for Siberia. Conservative estimates placed the number of people deported in this despicable manner at more than 100,000.

Letters began arriving from the deportees telling about the numerous deaths while in transit. People trembled as they listened to threats made by countless agitators. Agricultural work was done listlessly. Fields were neglected. More and more failures to meet taxes and grain delivery quotas were reported in the press, announcing "temporary exile into friendly republics" of the "kulak saboteurs." People became resigned and agreed to go into kolkhozes.

668 The Lithuanian is passionately fond of his soil. How could he leave all his precious belongings and animals to the profane Russians to debase? No: he would rather burn down everything. . . .

16a

000

A unit of Freedom Fighters resting after a battle—Tauras Area, Lithuania.

668
661

These practices meant "sabotage of a people's economy" and "insurrection." Reproached and heckled in this manner, some people broke down and could no longer stand the tirades and the violence. They seized their pitchforks, axes and scythes and turned on the hated Muscovites. Countless people were murdered. Ablebodied men fled to the forests.

All this time, the Russians were perfecting their preparations to execute the "Abakumov Order" to purge the Baltic States of all hostile element (see the Nov.-Dec. 1948 issue of the *Lithuanian Bulletin*, pp. 4-5). The indignation and desperation of the farmers offered a very convenient excuse for MVD-MGB troops to descend en masse in November and December 1948 in execution of a previously conceived plan of the Kremlin Politburo. After all, the agitators had very definite instructions: rave for hours—and some people's enemies are likely to betray themselves/. . .

No one knows the manpower losses of the "operation" of the present winter. First reports placed the casualties at 60,000 men, women and children. But the Russians claimed that the "insurrection" was put down only in January 1949, and the "Russian system" entails retaliation against the families and friends of the "people's enemies." This means that the persecution is endless. . . .

However, the crime of genocide perpetrated by the Russians against Catholic Lithuania does not end with simple murder on the ground of a provoked "sabotage" and "insurrection." Genocide takes other forms.

874
661

One of the refined forms of genocide is reported in the Party organ *Tiesa* of 13 December 1948:

"A serial call of the youths to the FGA (Factory Production Training) schools of Vilnius, Kaunas and Klaipėda began on 10 November. The call-up will last until 15 December 1948. One thousand youths will be called to learn mass construction skills. During the years 1945-48 about 14,000 young skilled workers entered industrial and construction concerns from the trades, railroad and FGA schools."

Graduates of such specialized schools may be sent anywhere in the Soviet Union, to "assist the fraternal republics" needing specified skilled labor groups. They have no choice—they must go where they are directed, and there is unlimited demand for skilled labor in the Asiatic "fraternal republics." Their eventual return to their homeland is doubtful.